

---

# ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

## DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

### FISHERY UPDATE



*Cora Campbell, Commissioner*  
*Jeff Regnart, Director*



---

Contact:  
Dave Gordon

Phone: (907) 747-6688  
Fax: (907) 747-6693

Sitka Area Office  
304 Lake Street, Room 103  
Sitka, Alaska 99835  
Date: March 23, 2012  
Time: 2:30 p.m.

---

#### SITKA SOUND HERRING FISHERY UPDATE #4

The department conducted an aerial survey this morning covering Sitka Sound north of Cape Burunof and Salisbury Sound out to Klokachef Island. Spotting conditions were excellent with light winds. North of Sitka, sea lions and whales continue to be concentrated in the area between the islands and Baranof Island shoreline from Halibut Point to Dog Point. Additionally, there were 30 sea lions in South Crow Pass, 15 sea lions and one whale south of the Chaichie Islands, 16 sea lions south of Bieli Rock, 5 sea lions off Inner Point, and a total of 27 sea lions in small groups in Nakwasina Sound from the entrance to near Allan Point. South of Sitka in Silver Bay there were 55 sea lions scattered along the south shoreline from the entrance to Bear Cove and 7 sea lions were near Entry Point. Three whales were seen near the mouth of Silver Bay. There were 8 sea lions and one whale between the islands south of Middle Channel. In the middle of Sitka Sound there were six whales observed between Bieli Rock and Guide Island and one whale was north of Vitskari Rocks. There was little activity in the southern reaches of Salisbury Sound, though several whales were seen offshore south of Klokachef Island. One large school of herring was seen on the surface between St. Lazaria Island and Shoals Point. Aerial surveys will now be occurring on a daily basis.

A test set was made today between Halibut Point and Middle Island with the following results: set size - 200 tons; mature roe - 8.2%; immature roe - 4.9%; 165 gram average weight; 54% female.

The department has not yet announced a time when the fishery will be on 2-hour notice. The department will plan to have another sample taken tomorrow to continue monitoring the progression of mature roe recovery. A pre-fishery organizational meeting will occur on Sunday, March 25, at 2:00 p.m. The meeting will be held at the Westmark.

Updates will be posted on the ADF&G web site listed below, and on a recorded message phone at (907) 747-1009.

News releases web site: <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=cfnews.main>.

Office	Ketchikan	Petersburg	Wrangell	Sitka	Juneau	Haines	Hoonah	Yakutat
ADFG	225-5195	772-3801	874-3822	747-6688	465-4250	766-2830		784-3255
AWT	225-5111	772-3983	874-3215	747-3254	465-4000	766-2533	945-3620	784-3220
Herring Hotline	225-6870	772-3700		747-1009	465-8905			